

## P R Î G I A C H E H .

( THE ACHINESE WELL. )

THE above is a small well, about four and a half feet deep, in the rocks on the sea-shore of the south coast of Johor, not far from Pulau Nânas, which lies in the Johor Straits behind Pulau Ūbin, as seen from Changi on the N. E. coast of Singapore.

One tradition relates that the Achinese, when withdrawing from Johor after their attack on it, threw a stone into this well, declaring that they would return when it floated.

Some accounts attribute the making of the well to the Achinese themselves, and it is quite likely they did make it, for the place is near the mouth of the Johor river, and it is an historical fact that they took Johor (Johor Lâma?), after a siege of twenty-nine days, in June, 1613, capturing and slaying at the same time some Dutch who happened to be there in a ship.\*

Another tradition in connection with this subject is of a patriotic but not historic order, and is to the following effect.

When the Achinese invaded the country, the pendent spear-like fruit of the countless mangroves which fringe the coast were turned by some invisible and friendly power, into spears, and hurled themselves against the enemy in such prodigious and unceasing showers, that the latter were soon convinced of the impracticability of their enterprise, and withdrew from a country so formidably protected.

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\* KERR's Voyages, vol. VIII., p. 452.